

REMARKS

Claims 11 – 13 and 18 – 38 have been examined. Claims 11 – 13, 18, 20 – 22, 25 – 32, and 34 – 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,925 (“Soltesz”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,938,609 (“Pomeranz”); Claims 19 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Soltesz and Pomeranz further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,484,424 (“Cottenceau”); and Claims 23, 24, 37, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Soltesz and Pomeranz further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,171,296 (“Chow”).

The independent claims have been amended to additionally recite a strain relief device to provide strain relief to a lead wire comprised by the drive cable when the lead wire is subjected to a tensile load (*see, e.g.*, Application, p. 12, l. 31 – p. 13, l. 16). Examination of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/862,811
Amdt. dated February 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 30, 2003

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick M. Boucher
Reg. No. 44,037

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
PMB:pmb
60139487 v1